

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03125 112341Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INR-05 INRE-00

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SP-02 L-01 HA-02 PM-03 DODE-00

ICAE-00 PA-01 /039 W

-----094454 120004Z /15

O 112240Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7075

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3125

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOB, PPDC, NU

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SOMOZA: JUNE 11

REF. A) STATE 172394, B) SOLAUN-MATTHEWS TELCON OF

7/11/78

SUMMARY. THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH SOMOZA TODAY AT THE AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST. TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT SOMOZA, RECENT EVENTS AT JINOTEPE AND MARXIST INFILTRATION OF "THE TWELVE." SOMOZA AGAIN ASKED FOR A PUBLIC STATEMENT OF USG SUPPORT OF THE GON. OTHER TOPICS INCLUDED THE QUESTION OF AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, ELECTORAL REFORM, AND THE CHAMORRO ASSASSINATION. END SUMMARY.

1. PURSUANT TO REFTTEL, THE AMBASSADOR REQUESTED A MEETING WITH SOMOZA AND SPOKE WITH HIM FOR ONE-HALF HOUR. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD SOMOZA THAT HE HAD ASKED FOR THIS APPOINTMENT ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT CARTER (REFTEL) TO CONVEY THE PRESIDENT'S SATISFACTION REGARDING SOMOZA'S STATEMENTS AND SOME STEPS RECENTLY TAKEN. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF TELCON, THE AMBASSADOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANAGU 03125 112341Z

VERBALLY DESCRIBED THE POINTS IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE (IAHRC VISIT, THE TWELVE, AMNESTY, AND ELECTORAL REFORM) AND MENTIONED PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTEREST IN NICARAGUA'S SIGNING AND RATIFICATION OF THE AMERICAN CONVENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD PERSONALLY SENT THE MESSAGE, WAS CLOSELY

FOLLOWING EVENTS IN NICARAGUA AND WISHED TO BE KEPT INFORMED REGARDING ACTION TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE.

2. SOMOZA APPEARED VISIBLY PLEASED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS THE SOURCE OF THIS MESSAGE. HE SAID THAT HE WAS ENCOURAGED TO SEE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS ABLE TO SEE THROUGH ANTI-GON PROPAGANDA. SOMOZA SAID THAT HE WANTED TO END HIS TERM OF OFFICE WITH FREE ELECTIONS IN ORDER TO CONSOLIDATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SOMOZAS. THE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS THAT WHILE HIS PHILOSOPHY IS THE SAME AS PRESIDENT CARTER'S NICARAGUANS ARE NOT AMERICANS AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO RULE NICARAGUA BECAUSE OF THE TUMULTUOUS NATURE OF SOME POLITICAL ELEMENTS HERE. SOMOZA THEN SAID THAT HE HAS ALREADY SIGNED THE AMERICAN CONVENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT RATIFICATION BY THE NICARAGUAN CONGRESS IS PENDING. HE WANTED THE AMB TO KNOW THAT HE WAS IN FAVOR OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS BECAUSE, AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE WHEN HE IS OUT OF POWER HE HIMSELF WOULD NEED INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION FOR HIS RIGHTS.

3. THE AMB RAISED THE RECENT EVENTS IN JINOTEPE AND EXPRESSED HIS DEEP CONCERN THAT THE INSURRECTIONIST LINE CONTINUED STRONG WITH THE OPPOSITION. FURTHERMORE, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANAGU 03125 112341Z

THE AMB NOTED THAT UPON THE ARRIVAL OF "THE TWELVE", HE HAD NOT SEEN ANY SIGNS CARRYING SLOGANS SUPPORTING THE VARIOUS TRADITIONAL OPPOSITIONS NOR UDEL, BUT RATHER ONLY SIGNS CARRYING FSLN SLOGANS. SOMOZA AGREED AND ADDED THAT THIS SHOWED THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE "AFTER HIS HEAD." SOMOZA SAID THAT HE WAS HAPPY THAT HE HAD "ALLOWED" THE TWELVE TO ENTER NICARAGUA WITHOUT REPRISALS. AT FIRST, HE SAID, HE HAD MISGIVINGS BECAUSE HE FELT THAT THE ARRIVAL OF THE TWELVE COULD ENCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE TOWARD INSURRECTION, BUT UPON REFLECTION, DECIDED THAT THE BEST WAY WAS TO PERMIT THE TWELVE TO RETURN TO NICARAGUA AND PUBLICLY EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS--THEREBY PERMITTING EVERYONE TO SEE THE EXTENT OF THE COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF THE GROUP. THIS INFILTRATION, HE SAID, HAS ALREADY SCARED THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY (PCN) AND THE MEMBERS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND, THEREFORE, IN HIS OPINION HAS WORKED TO GON ADVANTAGE. HOWEVER, SOMOZA ADDED, THE PROBLEM WAS THAT HE COULD NOT CONTROL GUARDIA WHEN THEY BECAME SCARED FROM SHOOTING AT DEMONSTRATORS EVEN THOUGH THIS WAS AGAINST HIS ORDERS. WHAT WAS NEEDED TO CALM THE SITUATION, HE SAID, WAS A SIGN OR A STATEMENT FROM THE USG, PERHAPS NOT NECESSARILY BACKING HIM PERSONALLY,

BUT PUBLICLY DISCOURAGING INSURRECTION. HE OBSERVED THAT SOME PEOPLE STILL BELIEVE THE USG WILL INTERVENE TO DESTABILIZE THE GON AND THIS IS KEEPING THEM GOING.

4. THE AMB RAISED THE ISSUE ON AMNESTY AND QUESTIONED WHETHER IT MIGHT BE LINKED TO ELECTORAL REFORM, THEREBY DEFUSING AND EXPLOSIVE SITUATION. SOMOZA EXPRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS TO USE THE OAS TO MONITOR ELECTIONS HERE AND REPEATED HIS DESIRE TO END HIS TERM OF OFFICE WITH FREE ELECTIONS. OF COURSE, HE SAID, HE WANTED THE LIBERAL PARTY TO WIN AND WOULD WORK TOWARD THAT END, BUT HE WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT, WITHIN REASONABLE NUMERICAL LIMITS, OAS SUPERVISION OF ELECTIONS. HE INSISTED THAT HE REMAINS CONVINCED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MANAGU 03125 112341Z

THAT THE LIBERAL PARTY IS THE MAJORITY.

5. THE AMB RAISED THE CHAMORRO ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION, SUGGESTING THAT THE INVOLVEMENT OF SOME INTERNATIONAL EXPERTSMIGHT HELP CLEAR THE AIR AND DISPEL MISTRUST. THE AMB TOLD SOMOZA THAT HE HAD TALKED TO XAVIER CHAMORRO (DIRECTOR OF LA PRENSA AND BROTHER OF PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO) WHO HAD SHOWN INTEREST IN THE IDEA. THE AMB HAD ENCOURAGE CHAMORRO TO PRESS PUBLICLY FOR THIS, BUT NO RESULTS WERE AS YET VISIBLE. SOMOZA SAID THAT THE OPPOSITION WAS NTO BEING CONSTRUCTIVE, ONLY BLAMING HIM, AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE IDEA SAYING THAT PERHAPS THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT COULD PROPOSE SUCH INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN THE INVESTIGATION. SOMOZA SAID HE KNEW WHO HAD KILLED CHAMORRO, BUT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM WITH THE CHAMORRO FAMILY. WHEN HIS FATHER HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED, THE PRESIDENT SAID, HE ALSO HAD MISGIVINGS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AFTERWARDS. SOMOZA SAID THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE CONSERVATIVES WOULD MOVE FORWARD AND DISCUSS AN ELECTORAL PLAN. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WAS NO NEED FOR A POLITICAL PACT, SIMPLY AND AGREEMENT ON A MECHANISM ACCEPTABLE TO ALL TO AVOID CONTINUING CONFRONTATION AND BLOODSHED AND ACHIEVE AN ELECTORAL SOLUTION.

6. COMMENT: IN CONVEYING PRES. CARTER'S MESSAGE, AMB DID NOT STATE THAT A SIGNED LETTER WAS BEING SENT AND DID NOT REFER TO CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE MESSAGE. SOMOZA DID NOT ASK FOR THE MESSAGE IN WRITING OR INQUIRE WHETHER THERE WAS A WRITTEN MESSAGE TO FOLLOW THE AMB'S PRESENTATION. EMB VIEW ON THE ISSUE OF HANDLING THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.

LOLAUN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 MANAGU 03125 112341Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU03125
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780284-0585
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780775/aaaackuy.tel
Line Count: 175
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7af8ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 172394
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2053226
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH SOMOZA: JUNE 11
TAGS: PGOV, PPDC, SHUM, NU, US, (SAMOZA DEBAYLE, ANASTASIO), (SOLAUN, MAURICIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7af8ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014